

## **CLAIMS**

1. A method for providing bandwidth management in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the method comprising:

receiving from at least one of a first access point and a first switch, at least a first messaging protocol message for establishing a communication session;

responsive to said first messaging protocol message, determining an available communication bandwidth for at least a portion of the hybrid wired/wireless local area network;

allocating bandwidth to accommodate said communication session; and

notifying said first access point of said allocated bandwidth using at least a second messaging protocol message.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said receiving further comprises receiving said at least a first messaging protocol message by at least one of a second switch and a second access point.

3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising requesting bandwidth usage information from at least one of said first access point and said first switch using said at least a first messaging protocol message.

4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising de-allocating said allocated bandwidth using at least a third messaging protocol message subsequent to termination of said established communication session.

5. The method according to claim 4, further comprising sending said at least a third messaging protocol message from at least one of said second switch and said second access point to at least one of said first switch and said first access point.

6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising receiving bandwidth information from at least one of a quality of service management process, a load balancing management process, a session control process, and a network management process using at least a fourth messaging protocol message.

7. The method according to claim 6, further comprising requesting said bandwidth information from said quality of service management process, said load balancing management process, said session control process, and said network management process using a fifth messaging protocol message.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein said first, second, third, fourth and fifth messaging protocol messages each comprise at least one message selected from the group consisting of an access point status message, access point configuration message, a switch status message, a switch configuration message, a client status message and a device discovery message.

9. A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having at least one code section for providing bandwidth management in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the at least one code section executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps comprising:

receiving from at least one of a first access point and a first switch, at least a first messaging protocol message for establishing a communication session;

responsive to said first messaging protocol message, determining an available communication bandwidth for at least a portion of the hybrid wired/wireless local area network;

allocating bandwidth to accommodate said communication session; and

notifying said first access point of said allocated bandwidth using at least a second messaging protocol message.

10. The machine-readable storage according to claim 9, wherein said receiving code further comprises code for receiving said at least a first messaging protocol message by at least one of a second switch and a second access point.

11. The machine-readable storage according to claim 10, further comprising code for requesting bandwidth usage information from at least one of said first access point and said first switch using said at least a first messaging protocol message.

12. The machine-readable storage according to claim 13, further comprising code for de-allocating said allocated bandwidth using at least a third messaging protocol message subsequent to termination of said established communication session.

13. The machine-readable storage according to claim 12, further comprising code for sending said at least a third messaging protocol message from at least one of said second switch and said second access point to at least one of said first switch and said first access point.

14. The machine-readable storage according to claim 13, further comprising code for receiving bandwidth information from at least one of a quality of service

management process, a load balancing management process, a session control process, and a network management process using at least a fourth messaging protocol message.

15. The machine-readable storage according to claim 14, further comprising code for requesting said bandwidth information from said quality of service management process, said load balancing management process, said session control process, and said network management process using at least a fifth messaging protocol message.

16. The machine-readable storage according to claim 15, wherein said first, second, third, fourth and fifth messaging protocol messages each comprise at least one message selected from the group consisting of an access point status message, access point configuration message, a switch status message, a switch configuration message, a client status message and a device discovery message.

17. A system for providing bandwidth management in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the system comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive from at least one of a first access point and a first switch, at least a first messaging protocol message for establishing a communication session;

at least one controller adapted to determine an available communication bandwidth for at least a portion of the hybrid wired/wireless local area network, responsive to said first messaging protocol message;

said at least one controller adapted to allocate bandwidth to accommodate said communication session; and

said at least one controller adapted to notify said first access point of said allocated bandwidth using at least a second messaging protocol message.

18. The system according to claim 17, wherein said receiver is further adapted to receive said at least a first messaging protocol message by at least one of a second switch and a second access point.

19. The system according to claim 18, wherein said at least one controller is adapted to request bandwidth usage information from at least one of said first access point and said first switch using said at least a first messaging protocol message.

20. The system according to claim 19, wherein said at least one controller is adapted to de-allocate said allocated bandwidth using at least a third messaging protocol message subsequent to termination of said established communication session.

21. The system according to claim 20, wherein said at least one controller is adapted to send said at least a third messaging protocol message from at least one of said second switch and said second access point to at least one of said first switch and said first access point.

22. The system according to claim 21, wherein said receiver is adapted to receive bandwidth information from at least one of a quality of service management process, a load balancing management process, a session control process, and a network management process using at least a fourth messaging protocol message.

23. The system according to claim 22, wherein said at least one controller is adapted to request said bandwidth information from said quality of service management process, said load balancing management process, said session control process, and said network management process using at least a fifth messaging protocol message.

24. The system according to claim 23, wherein said first, second, third, fourth and fifth messaging protocol messages each comprise at least one message selected from the group consisting of an access point status message, access point configuration message, a switch status message, a switch configuration message, a client status message and a device discovery message.

25. The system according to claim 23, wherein said at least one controller is a bandwidth management controller, a quality of service controller, a load balancing controller, a session controller and a network management controller.